

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia
November 11. 1885-

Sir.

After gathering all the information I could in regard to the half-eagle of 1815, which is offered for sale to the Mint, by Mr. Harold P. Newlin, I make the following report.

I have examined the coin, and pronounce it genuine, and in beautiful condition. It is the rarest of the U. S. gold coinage, outside of the Mint collection. Only three are known to exist in this country, and one in the Mint Cabinet of the Swedish Mint. The three, in this ^{country} are owned by Mr. Parmelee of Boston, Mr. Garrett of Baltimore, and Mr. Newlin of Phila. (The latter piece, being the one offered for sale) Mr. Garrett's piece cost him \$480. and Mr. Newlin \$300.

I wrote a note to Mr. Wm. D. Jenks. Wholesale Druggist, 160 N. 3rd St. who is considered the best authority on U. S. Gold Coins, for a history of the Coin. I inclose his reply with this report.

As we do not have this Coin in our Cabinet, and important that ^{our} issue from the Mint, should be represented there, and although \$300. is a very large sum to pay for a five-dollar piece, I would recommend its purchase upon the ground, that is very likely the last opportunity we may ~~see~~ have of getting one at that or any price, as they are all in "strong hands".

The coin will continue to increase in value. We have \$299. left remaining of the annual appropriation of \$300. for Coins, and are to be reserved in the Mint. If you approve of the purchase I

would recommend that we make
Mr. Reubin an offer of \$299.00 for
his 1815 half-eagle.

R. A. McClure
Curator.

Hon. Daniel M. Fox
Superintendent.

Philad^a

Nov-11-85

McClure.

Relative to \$5 gold
Piece of 1815.



Copy

Supreme Court of Pennsylvania,
Eastern District

Chas. S. Greene,
Prothonotary.

Philadelphia, Oct. 12th 1885.

My dear Sir:-

In looking over the Coin Cabinet of the Mint at Phila.- I notice that it lacks a very important piece viz. the American Gold Half Eagle of 1815. This piece (of which but three specimens are known), is the rarest early American piece since 1793, the commencement of the Mint coinage -

Of these three specimens one is owned by Lorin S. Parmelee of Boston who has the finest known collection of U.S. coins -

Second - owned by J. Harrison Garrett Esq., of Baltimore, who paid \$450.00 for his specimen

Third-owned by me - bought at a public sale of coins - at Baugo & Co. 739 Broadway New York, in the sale of the "Jenks Collection" Catalogued by W. E. Woodward of Boston. It brought \$300.- at this sale - I think it most important that our Mint should have the piece and I now offer it to you at the figure it sold for viz. - \$300.- It will be a bargain at that price. It is much rarer than the 1804 dollar (of which probably from 12 to 20 are known and which brings \$1000. at public sale). My piece is in beautiful state of preservation and was found with the other two a good many years ago - hid away in an old stocking. It is probable ... but I were coined, as the Mint burned down in that year. I should be glad to receive a line from you & can give you all particulars.

Supreme Court
Philada Pa }

I am Truly Yours
(Signed) Harold P. Newlin

Copy
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania,
Eastern District

Chas. S. Greene,
Prothonotary.

Philadelphia, Oct. 12th 1885.

My dear Sir:-

I'm looking over the Coin Cabinet of the Mint at Phila. - I notice that it lacks a very important piece viz. the American Gold Half Eagle of 1815. This piece (of which but three specimens are known) is the rarest early American piece since 1793, the commencement of the Mint coinage -

Of these three specimens one is owned by Louis S. Parmelee of Boston who has the finest known collection of U.S. coins -

Second - owned by J. Harrison Garrett Esq., of Baltimore, who paid \$450.00 for his specimen

Third-owned by me - bought at a public sale of coins - at Bangs & Co. 739 Broadway New York, in the sale of the "Jenks Collection" Catalogued by W. E. Woodward of Boston. It brought \$300.- at this sale - I think it most important that our Mint should have the piece and I now offer it to you at the figure it sold for viz. - \$300.- It will be a bargain at that price. It is much rarer than the ~~one~~ which probably from 12 to 20 are known and which brings \$1000. at public sale). My piece is in beautiful state of preservation and was found with the other two a good many years ago - hid away in an old stocking. It is probable but I were coined, as the Mint burned down in that year. I should be glad to receive a line from you & can give you all particulars.

Supreme Court
Philadelphia Pa

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(Signed) Harold P. Newlin

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EASTERN DISTRICT.

CHAS S. GREENE,
Prothonotary.

Philadelphia, Oct 12 1885.

My dear Sir:

In looking over the Coin Cabinet of the Mint at Phila. I notice that it lacks a very important piece viz the American Gold Half Eagle of 1815. This piece, of which but three specimens are known, is the rarest Early American piece since 1793, the commencement of the Unit-
Coinage - Of the three specimens one is owned by Lorn S. Parmelee of Boston, who has the finest known collection of U.S. Coins -
Second - Owned by J. Hansen Garrett of Baltimore, who paid \$450 for his ^{1st} specimen
3rd Owned by me - Bought at a public sale of coins at Bangs & Co

No.
22511

DIRECTOR MINT.

REC. OCT 29 1885

739 Broadway. New York. in the
 sale of the "Junks" Collection. Catalogued
 by W. E. Woodward of Boston. It
 brought \$300- at this sale - I think
 it most important that our Mint should
 have the piece & I now offer it to you
 at the price it sold for viz \$300-
 It will be a bargain at that price,
 it is much rarer than the 1804
 dollar - (of which probably 12 to 20 are
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 sale) My piece is in beautiful
 state of preservation. & was found
 with the other two, a good many years
 ago - hid away in an old stocking.
 It is probably but 3 were coined, as
 the Mint burned down in that year.
 I should be glad to receive a line
 from you & can give you all particulars.
 All very truly
 Harold F. Newlin

Supreme Court
 Philadelphia

RG104 E-1 Box 136 Oct-Dec 1885

WILLIAM A. JENKS,
WHOLESALE DRUGGIST AND CHEMIST.

DEALER IN

PHARMACEUTICAL SPECIALTIES,

PAINTS, OILS, SPICES, VARNISHES, &c.

No. 160 North Third Street,

Philadelphia, 11 mo. 10 1885

R. A. McNamee Esq
Dear Sir

In answer to
your favor of the 9th Inst. I am
pleased to say that I am glad
to hear that you have the oppor-
tunity of obtaining a 1815 Eagle
for the U.S. Mint Cabinet, as I think
the Cabinet should possess a spe-
cimen of every coin which has
emanated from it.

There are but 3 or 4 pieces of the
Coin in question, so far as my
knowledge extends. And the prob-
ability of ever finding other
specimens is exceedingly slight.
One Hundred Dollars seems
high for the price, but as I

do not know where you could
 look for another. (as all are
 held in strong hands) I think
 I would not let the opportuni-
 ty pass. Especially as you will
 find no difficulty in disposing
 of it at the price asked. and
 at some advances it will only
 increase in value
 My advice to you is, buy it by
 all means.

I am always glad to hear
 of any movement which will
 perfect the Unit Cabinet.
 Whenever I can be of use to
 you, I am ever yours to
 Command

Very Me

Thos. J. Church

G104 E-1 Box 136 Oct-Dec 188

The quarter dollar of 1801
and half-dime of 1802 are
The only silver coins that
we ~~do not~~ have ^{not} in the
Cabinet.

R.A. McClure
Curator

WILLIAM J. JENKS,
 WHOLESALE DRUGGIST AND CHEMIST,
 DEALER IN
 PHARMACEUTICAL SPECIALTIES,
 PAINTS, OILS, SPICES, VARNISHES, &c.
 No. 160 North Third Street,

Philadelphia, 11 mo. 10 1885

In relation to the 1815-1/2 Eagles,
 the Mint Statistics I believe report
 none as having been struck that
 year, but four are known to exist.
 One in the possession of Mr
 Barnell in Boston. One owned
 by Mr. Garrett of Baltimore
 one in the Swedish Mint (reported
 by Mr. Nickley when he visited Europe)
 & the one you now have in
 your possession. This one &
 Mr. Barnell's (I believe) were
 obtained in 1858 from a person
 who brought them together (with
 no others of any other date) to a
 broker in New York tied up in
 a piece of red Stocking where
 they had evidently laid ever

Some they were coined, paper
 by un circulated & beautiful
 From the Brooks office they
 fell into the hands of a gentle
 man in N. Y. City. This was
 during the time that Gen J Ross
 Snowden was making up the
 Washington Cabinet of Medals. &
 in order to do this he issued as
 you know many certificates of
 rare coins viz 1858 dollars 1851
 & 1852 dollars all proofs. The set
 of 1858 Nickels 12 in a set. & the
 this gentleman in N. Y. had been
 in this city & whilst here showed
 his 1815 Eagles to Mr Miller
 agent of the Penn Mutual Insur-
 Co & stated to him that he was
 anxious to procure some of the
 new Certificates which were just
 coming out. He was informed
 that I have been making ex-
 changes with Col J. R. Snowden
 for Washington pieces & that

WHOLESALE DRUGGIST AND CHEMIST,

DEALER IN

PHARMACEUTICAL SPECIALTIES,

PAINTS, OILS, SPICES, VARNISHES, &c.

No. 160 North Third Street,

Philadelphia, mo. 188

perhaps I ought to have done
on hand that I should ex-
change for one of the 12 Eagles
brochilla informed me of the
fact I lost no time in cor-
responding with the N.Y. Phil.

The result was that I obtained
one of them for a price which
cost me then \$100. or more
This is I believe the true
history of the price you have
now in your possession. The
other I understood, after being
received and a time later passed
into the hands of Dr. Parmer
where it now remains.

W. J. Knapp

Philadelphia, Pa.
Oct. 17. 1885.

Harold P. Newell

Wishes to dispose
of gold half eagle of
coinage of 1816.

Treasury Department,
Mint Bureau.

November 7, 1885

Respectfully referred
to the Superintendent of
the Mint at Philadelphia.

The Treasurer is
making up a
collection of subsidiary
coins here, and if any be
wanted for your collection
it might be well to
notify this Bureau
as they might be
found in the Treasurer's
collection made for the
purpose of testing

No: Director Mint
22571 Rec'd Oct. 29. 1885
Philadelphia, Penn.
Oct. 12. 1885

the question of abrasion
Jas. P. Kimball
Director

~~W. C. Kimball~~
~~Oct. 12. 1885~~
Notes to dispose
of the Half Eagle
of Coinage of 1815

Treasury Department,
Mint Bureau,

November 7, 1885

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[Letter One:]

[Abstract:] Relative to \$5 gold piece of 1815.

Original

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia
November 11, 1885

Sir.

After gathering all the information I could in regard to the half-eagle of 1815, which is offered for sale to the Mint, by Mr. Harold P. Newlin, I make the following report.

I have examined the coin and pronounce it genuine, and in beautiful condition. It is the rarest of the U.S. gold coinage, outside of the Mint Collection. Only three are known to exist in this country, and one in the Mint Cabinet of the Swedish Mint. The three, in this country are owned by Mr. Parmelee of Boston, Mr. Garrett of Baltimore, and Mr. Newlin of Phila. (The latter pieces, being the one offered for sale.) Mr. Garretts pieces cost him \$480, and Mr. Newlin's \$300.

I wrote a note to Mr. Wm. J. Jenks, Wholesale Druggist, 160 N. 3 St. who is considered the best authority on U.S. Gold coins, for a history of the coin. I enclose his reply with this report.

As we do not have this coin in our Cabinet, and important that country issue from the Mint, should be represented there, and although \$300, is a very large sum to pay for a five-dollar piece. I would recommend its purchase upon the ground that is very likely the last opportunity we may have of getting one at that or any price, as they are all in "strong hands".

The coin will continue to increase in value.

We have \$299 remaining of the annual appropriation of \$500 "for coins and ores to be reserved in the Mint".

If you approve of the purchase & would recommend that we make Mr. Newlin an offer of \$299.00 for his 1815 half eagle.

R.A. McClure
Curator.

Hon. Daniel M. Fox
Superintendent.

[Letter Two:]

Copy

Supreme Court of Pennsylvania,
Eastern District

Chas. S. Greene,
Prothonotary
Philadelphia,
October 12, 1885

My dear Sir: -

In looking over the Coin Cabinet of the Mint at Phila. – I notice that it lacks a very important piece viz. the American Gold Half Eagle of 1815. This piece (of which but three specimens are known) is the rarest early American piece since 1793, the commencement of the Mint coinage.

Of these three specimens one is owned by Lorin S. Parmelee of Boston who has the finest known collection of U.S. coins.

Second – owned by T. Harrison Garrett Esq. of Baltimore, who paid \$450.00 for his specimen.

Third – owned by me – bought at a public sale of coins – at Baugs & Co. 739 Broadway New York, in the sale of the “Jenks Collection” Catalogued by W.E. Woodward of Boston. It brought \$300 – at this sale – I think it most important that our Mint should have the piece and I now offer it to you at the figure it sold for viz. \$300. It will be a bargain at that price. It is much rarer than the 1804 dollar which probably from 12 to 20 are known and which brings \$1000 at public sale. My piece is in beautiful state of preservation and was found with the other two a good many years ago – hid away in an old stocking. It is probable but 3 were coined, as the Mint burned down in that year. I should be glad to receive a line from you & can give you all particulars.

I am Truly Yours
(Signed) Harold P. Newlin

Supreme Courts
Philada. Pa.

[Please note: Letters Three & Four are a duplicate of Letter Two.]

[Letter Five:]

William J. Jenks,
Wholesale Druggist and Chemist,
Dealer in Pharmaceutical Specialties,
Philadelphia,
November 10, 1885

R.A. McClure Esq.

Dear Sir

In answer to your favor of the 9th inst. I am pleased to say that I am glad to hear that you had the opportunity of obtaining a 1815 ½ Eagle for the U.S. Mint Cabinet, as I think the Cabinet should possess a specimen of every coin which has emanated from it.

I are but 3 or 4 pieces of the coin in question, so far as my knowledge extends and the probability of every finding other specimens is exceedingly slight. Three Hundred Dollars seems high for the piece, but as I do not know where you would look for another. (As all are held in strong hands.) I think I would not let the opportunity pass. Especially as you will find no difficulty in disposing of it at the price asked – and as time advances it will duly increase in value.

My advice to you is buy it by all means.

I am always glad to hear of any movement which will perfect the Mint Cabinet & whenever I can be of use to you, I am ever yours to command.

I am &c.
Wm. J. Jenks

[Letter Six:]

The quarter dollar of 1828 and half-dime of 1802 are the only silver coins that we have not in the Cabinet.

R.A. McClure
Curator

[Letter Seven:]

William J. Jenks,
Wholesale Druggist and Chemist,
Dealer in Pharmaceutical Specialties,
Philadelphia,
November 10, 1885

In relation to the 1815 ½ Eagles, the Mint statistics I believe report none as having been struck that year, but four are known to exist, viz one in the possession of Mr. Parmelee in Boston. One owned by Mr. Garrett of Baltimore, one in the Swedish Mint (reported by Mr. Mickley when he visited Europe) & the one you now have in your possession. This one & Mr. Parmelee's (I believe) were obtained in 1858 from a person who bought them together (with no others of any other date) to a broker in New York tied up in a piece of red stocking where they had evidently laid ever since they were coined, perfectly uncirculated & beautiful, from the Brokers office they fell into the hands of a gentlemen in N.Y. City. This was during the time that Mr. J. Ross Snowden was making up the Washington Cabinet of Medals & in order to do this he issued as you know making restrikes of rare Coins viz 1858 Dollars 1851 & 1852 Dollars all proofs. The set of 1858 nickels 12 in a set &c. &c. This gentleman in N.Y. had been in this city & whilst here showed his 1815 ½ Eagles to our Mr. Miller, Agent of the Penn. Mutual Insurance Co. & Stated to him that he was anxious to procure some of the new restrikes which were just coming out. He was informed that I have been making exchanged with Col. J.R. Snowden for Washington pieces & that perhaps I maybe have some one hand that I would exchange for one of the ½ Eagles Mr. Leillen informed me of the fact & I lost no time in corresponding with the N.Y. Party.

The result was that I obtained one of them for pieces which cost me then \$100 or more. This is I believe the true history of the piece you have now in your possession. The other I understood after being exchanged two or three times passed on to the hands of Mr. Parmelee where it now remains.

W.J. Jenks

NARA RG104, Entry 1, Box 136

[Noted on back of Letter Seven:]

Treasury Department,
Mint Bureau,
November 7, 1885

Respectfully referred to the Superintendent of the Mint at Philadelphia.

The Treasurer is making up a collection of subsidiary coins here, and if anyone wanted for your collection it might be well to notify this Bureau as they might be found in the Treasury's collection made for the purpose of testing the question of abrasion.

Jas. P. Kimball
Director